

# THE KALIFORNSKI

Since 1979

NEWSLETTER OF THE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC

P.O. Box 226, Watsonville, CA 95077

(A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS, & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)

NO. 72 JULY 1985

Circulation 425

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## JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> !



YACO'S 6th ANNUAL PICNIC  
AT THE CORRALITOS PADRES PARK

### MENU INCLUDES:

DELICIOUS BARBEQUED SKIRT STEAK  
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THERE WILL BE COOL REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN AS WELL!

GAMES OF ALL KINDS FOR THE VERY YOUNG KIDS, NOT SO YOUNG KIDS AND SOME OF THE MORE MATURE!

PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO GAME WINNERS AND THERE WILL BE SOME SUPER RAFFLE PRIZES TOO!

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DINNER WILL BE SERVED STARTING AT 12 NOON - THE COST PER ADULT \$10 - \$4 CHILDREN UNDER 12

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR - FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: JOHN BISKUP - 724-2118 or  
JACK OSORIO - 722-7686

WE'LL HAVE LOTS MORE SEATING THIS YEAR SO COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS FOR A GREAT TIME!!!!!!

**PRIZES:** 1st: VHS Recorder - 2nd: \$100 gift certificate to FAIRWAY MART - 3rd: ADRIATIC  
TOURS 7 day land package to YUGOSLAVIA and many other miscellaneous prizes!!!!!!

# Potpourri

By BABE BRAUTOVICH HILL

JULY 7

JULY 7

JULY 7

"THE DAY TO REMEMBER, YACO'S JULY PICNIC. Same time, same place, same good fun and games, food, music, etc. Come one, come all. Let's make this one the best and biggest ever... June 2nd meeting, about 60 members attended and it was a constructive meeting and beautiful slides. Many, Many Thanks to ANN BACKOVICH for showing China's Great Wall slides, the greatest ever... Don't forget if you didn't get to our annual BAKE SALE (MARY BASICH'S), we will accept monetary donations. MARY'S report says she made \$521.60 for YACO'S Scholarships. YACO'S heartfelt thanks to you MARY! ... J. GOSPODNETICH presented our Treasurer with a check for \$250.00 from the FAIRWAY MART for YACO members' time donated in the price change job... REMEMBER WHEN? The Y.M.C.A. was on Main Street and Harry's Market was on 3rd St., when there was a 3rd Street that is. Do you have a printable "Remember When"? Call me 724-1284 or write 524 California Street, Watsonville CA 95076... Please call or write to me if you have slides you can show on August 4th. I would rather have your slides than to go to the library. Don't be bashful! Step right up. We want to see where you've been to... BERT IVELICH'S story was one of the greatest - including tears and laughter. Now another biggie - the "NICK DERPICH STORY" promises to be as great... I have two addresses for you to copy: The Ungame Co., 761 Monroe Way, Placentia, CA 92670; a game invented by Mr. DAN & RHEA ZAKICH. This was in 5/28/85 Woman's World. Second one is for the BOOK by ELSIE IVANCICH DUNIN (ANN RADALYAC'S). Send your check for \$14.84 (soft bound) to U.C.L.A. Cultural History, 405 Hildegard, Los Angeles, CA 90024 ... SKUTTLEBUT: Belgrade, Yugoslavia will now have their very own McDonald's. Next Wendy's? Then what? ... JOHN IVELICH is back in the sheetmetal business. The ANDY GULERMOVICHES now have a grandson. RON & JERRY are going to barbeque on July 7th. Who's bringing the bread? ... GOOD THOUGHTS & POSITIVE ENERGIES to JACK NOVCICH who has been under the weather ... HELLO to VICE MATULICH, RUZA POLOVINA,



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UNTIL NEXT MONTH - TOODLE - - OO

## travel

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A D V E R T I S E M E N T

## EXTRA EXTRA

ADRIATIC TRAVEL would like to donate a 7 day land package in Yugoslavia as a RAFFLE PRIZE for the July 7th Picnic. PRIZE INCLUDES: One Adriatic Tour 7 day land package featuring SPLIT, TROGIR, ZADAR, PLITVICE LAKES, OPATIJA, POSTONJNA, BLEND and ZAGREB, including Hotel, all motor coach transportation and tours.

THANKS TO ADRIATIC TRAVEL FOR THIS GENEROUS RAFFLE PRIZE FOR OUR JULY 7th PICNIC!!!!



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## HARMONIJA



### HARMONIJA CAPERS

By NAIDA NICHOLAS

Singing at Aptos High School on June 5th, for the Interact Club and their delightful young people, including their guests, was a pleasurable experience. Members of Interact gave an International Fashion Show representing diverse attire from such countries as Korea, Turkey, Mexico and several other Asian lands.

"We Are All Citizens of One World" was Interact's theme. It was heartwarming to watch the students' enthusiasm and sincere interest. Even the food served had an international flavor.

The month of August is a "time off" period for Harmonija. Everyone is looking forward to their vacations. Incidentally, several of our members will be accompanying the Watsonville High School Band on their excursion to Europe. We wish them all a happy and safe journey.

YACO'S ANNUAL JULY PICNIC (July 7th) is only a few short weeks away - plan on being there - DOBRO DOSLI!

## People and Times

From our local Register Pajaronian 5/30/85 you may recognize a familiar name.

50 years ago (1935)

Mary Pilo and Lorraine Sepnafsky were winners of a trip to

Davis camp for outstanding 4-H sewing work.

## MEMORY LANE

By IRENE STRAZICICH

DO YOU REMEMBER the corner grocery store located on the corner of West Lake and Walker Street opposite the S. P. Depot run by Andrew Strazicich from about 1917 to 1942? DO YOU REMEMBER the glassed-in counter which contained all kinds of candy which sold for a penny and sometimes two or even three for a penny? Many a child would have a hard time deciding which candy he wanted to spend his pennies or nickel for.

DO YOU REMEMBER the large screened-in case containing huge rounds of cheese, Monterey Jack, Swiss and others? Also there were salamis and ham. ANDREW would slice off a piece as large or as small as you would want, then weigh it and wrap it. I REMEMBER the electrically run coffee grinder. You'd buy a pound or two and have it ground to your specifications. The whole store was filled with its aroma. Nearby, was the case containing the freshly baked bread, French and a wonderfule one called "Milk Bread".

THERE WAS a large tin box about a cubic yard square with the freshest soda crackers. You could buy a big bag full for a dime or so. There was also a rack containing boxes of cookies. They were in tins about a cubic foot in size. There were about a dozen kinds of cookies. Does your mouth water as you visualize them? You could buy as many as you wished and ANDREW would weigh them for you. I ALSO REMEMBER the large jar of pine nuts which could be bought in small amounts.

(Continued next page)

## Pajaro FOOD CENTER

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7a.m. - 9p.m. - Mon. - Sat.

7a.m. - 7p.m. - Sun.

("I REMEMBER" continued)

Evidently people used a lot of kerosene for heating and for lamps. ANDREW had a hand pump in the outer storeroom where he would crank out a gallon or so as each customer wished.

Rice came in 100 pound sacks and pasta of all types came in large wooden boxes and were sold in small amounts. I REMEMBER the gallon cans of olive oil. They came in heavy wooden boxes. (They made good fire wood). There were buckets of lard in all sizes.

Those were the days of home-baked bread so one section of the store was given over to stacks and stacks of 100 pound sacks of flour. Sugar also came in 100 pound sacks and was sold by the pound. DO YOU REMEMBER the table cloths, curtains, underclothing and even sheets that were made from those durable sacks?

ANDREW had a Ford which he used to deliver the groceries to his customers. There many homes in that area in those days -- all up and down West Lake, Second, Third and Fifth Streets and the other cross streets, so the grocery store was very convenient for many people. The closing of the corner grocery store marked the end of an era. Yes, the corner store closed and has been forgotten by all but a few of us.

(MANY THANKS TO IRENE FOR SHARING THESE PRECIOUS MEMORIES WITH US. I remember the screened-in case that my family and grandmothers had on the backporches for meats and various other items. We called it a muskir (moosh-keer). I remember too the flour sacks which served to make fine underslips made by my Grandmother.)

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## Visiting Students

ACADEMIC YEAR IN THE USA (AYUSA) is the name given to the high school exchange program sponsored by AYUSA International. AYUSA, a non-profit organization specializing in international study for young people, invites families interested in international cultures and languages, who have room in their homes and family to include a student from another culture, to apply to host a student from Europe, South America or the Orient for the coming school year.

There are three types of programs: 1) semester (5 mos.), 2) Academic year (10 mos.) and 3) An intensive program.

So far, we have students coming from Japan, Germany and Mexico and probably others. Students will attend high school in the local school district and will be between the ages of 15 and 18. They need families with open hearts and an active interest in young people with whom to live.

For information on how to apply to be host parents, contact JOHN BASOR, A Community Counselor, home - 724-2169 or work - 728-6630 722-3382. This could be a relationship that will last a lifetime. THANK YOU.

## Orient Trip

HONG KONG TRIP - Oct. 15-22, 1985

\$999 per person includes: Round trip air transportation/with transfers, Hotel accommodations at the Hyatt Hotel, Breakfast daily and 1/2 day city tour of Hong Kong. Space is limited so sign up now by contacting JEAN SCHMIDT, Adriatic Travel, (408) 728-7766

A D V E R T I S E M E N T



# VESELI SELJACI NEWS

by Nancy Bjeletich

Summer and picnics go hand-in-hand: Y.A.C.O.'s big family picnic on the 7th will be the one we'll all focus upon this month. We're all looking forward to seeing everyone, and tasting those great steaks!

We've just completed playing for the C.F.U. picnic at Napredak Hall on June 30th. As always, Milan Popovich and his crew cooked up a super lunch of lamb and chicken (he's spoiling us, giving us a choice, yet!) at the barbecue that everyone devoured. This is an annual event which we truly look forward to each year. We will return to Napredak to perform for the Stockholder's picnic on Sunday, July 28.

Plans are underway for a golf tournament at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church on August 2, 3, and 4th. Included in the festivities will be a Friday dance at the church hall, golf at the Oakridge Golf Course in San Jose on Saturday the 3rd, followed by a dinner at the golf course, and a lamb barbecue at the church picnic grounds in Cupertino on Sunday the 4th. Music will abound all weekend so it promises a great time for all.

The Veseli Seljaci picnic will take place on Sunday, September 15, at Napredak. This is our annual fall party that is a kick-off for the Tamburitza Extravaganza. This year we're going to Dearborn, Michigan on September 19-22, and the picnic at Napredak will be our momentum builder. There will be lots of music, dancing, good food, refreshments, and many good friends, including those of you in Y.A.C.O. who have always been among our faithful followers. Mark your calendars and don't miss this one!

Did you notice how fast the summer went, just in this article? We're already talking about fall--and look what is coming up then:

October 19 - San Francisco Bay Cruise-  
sponsored by the Santa  
Clara Valley Tamburitza.  
Tamburitza music on the Bay!

November 3 - First ever tamburitza bazaar and  
food fair! Music, dancing, arts,  
crafts, food making demonstrations,  
food sale. Napredak Hall.

November 24 - Tamburitza Mass. Slavonic Mutual  
Benevolent Society Hall.  
San Francisco

That's all that is scheduled for now, but you can be sure that more activities will crop up before that time. No wonder I feel older--it's already November on our Veseli Seljaci calendar!! But back to reality, see you at the July 7th picnic!!

# NICK'S STORY

by Patricia L. Solano

## PART II

I asked NICK how Watsonville had become the town chosen by the early settlers. He explained that many of the emigrators from Brač became involved in the restaurant business and so came to this coast of California. Many of the people from the Dubrovnik coast came to this coast and became involved in the apple orchards. The early settlers were the "pioneers" so to speak and helped to bring others to this great area. Many of the "Bračani" (people from the island of Brač) went into the restaurant business and so there weren't too many of them here at one time. Most of the people from the Konavle Valley ("Konavljani") came to this area because of the fruit and orchard business. NICK showed me a very interesting book about many of the people who had left the island of Brač and went to various other countries including the United States. He pointed out a picture in particular of one Ante Gospodnetić who might be a great relative to me. This could prove to be very interesting. I will have to look into this. NICK also pointed out to me a picture of Visko Kusanovich who was the Austrian Consul to Chile and said that much good had been written about this man and his work.



NICK thought to tell me about one of his brothers who had been a prisoner of war in Siberia during the First World War. This brother had been a prisoner for three years in Siberia and had finally acquired a Hungarian passport which no one could read and so he took off on foot to find his way back home to Yugoslavia (Austria) to be with his family. NICK remembered how when the brother came home, he was quite reluctant to have anyone see him and so NICK would steal away in the night on a horse to ride to a small cabin where the brother stayed for awhile. NICK would take him food and clothing and upon relating this story to me, some tears started with the sad memories.

The United States was "God's Country." This was Nick's perception of the land that he had come to seeking his fortune. He was completely happy here in this country and area and had no immediate desire to go back except that he missed his family terribly. In 1972, he did indeed go back to satisfy the wishes of his dear Katie. She had a great desire to go back to see the country that she had left when she was but three years old. In fact, Katie was held in the arms of my maternal grandmother, Franka Gospodnetić (Bakich), while making the crossing from the Old Country to the New Country. Katie wanted to visit the home of her parents and their parents before them so NICK and Katie set off for Yugoslavia to finally realize the wonderful dream, for them both as it turned out.

NICK remembered his growing up in Pučišća where he had attended the seminary school and had in fact won a scholarship as best student and then entered the seminary as a prospective priest. While attending the seminary, students were taken out on "field trips" to the stone quarry and shown how the stone was cut and made to marble and readied for export.

While on the island of Brač in 1972, the tunnel was being dug and finished for the arrival of electricity to the island from the mainland. This was especially exciting for NICK and Katie because approximately 12 years before, NICK received a letter from someone in Yugoslavia asking if he would be willing to help raise money for such a project. NICK answered the call and promptly approached several other men with a dinner at the Miramar Grill. The spark was struck and about \$3,600.00 was collected toward the electricity project. About 50 "Bračani" men from around this area and Hollister helped to make this a reality. NICK told of one little "Paisano", Milnárani, who would get up from the dinner table every so often and then come back to the table and say, "Here is another \$10.00." Everyone had a good laugh every time that he did this especially when he told them how he remembered when the cat used to come into the house and pull the wick from the lamp and he would get very mad.

Once the money was collected, it was put into an account to await word of where and how to send it.

One morning while NICK was at the Miramar, a man came in and sat at the counter. He looked around and then NICK walked over to him and asked, "Kako si?" (How are you?). The man introduced himself as Mr. Marinovich and said that he was the man who had written to NICK about the project. The full project was going to cost about \$18,000.00 and some funds were being

DR. RONALD P. BROOKS (Taliјancich)

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collected from South America where many "Bračani" had settled. A few years later, fresh water was piped into the island from the mainland. Up to that time, water had been collected from the roofs into the cisterns after a good rainfall. The water collected contained insects and various other elements and was really not very healthy to drink. As it turned out, the day before NICK and Katie arrived, the water was pumped from the mainland to the island and needless to say, much celebration took place.

While on Brač, NICK remembered how while growing up his family made their own wine. The vineyards were plentiful and being that NICK was such a small fellow, he would crawl into the 50 gallon barrels through a narrow opening and scrape and clean the insides. After the First World War, a sickness came into the vineyards killing all of them. The sickness was called "Filozera". It was also at this time a very good thing that Brač was raising more olives than anywhere else on the Dalmatian Coast.

Back to 1927, NICK had a small restaurant in San Francisco with another fella. NICK came to visit in Watsonville around Christmas of that year and while walking downtown Main Street, he saw Katie Hrepich walking from church with her mother Marija Hrepich and sister Anna (Ivelich). NICK greeted the ladies near the corner of Ford's Department Store (Continued next page)

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**YACO Member**

## (Nick's Story Cont'd)

with a familiar Yugoslav greeting, "Hello Bracke. Kako ste?", and then he started talking with them.

After the meeting with Katie and her mother and sister, NICK returned to San Francisco and proceeded to write to Katie. She, thinking that he had actually intended the letters for her sister Anna, failed to answer him. After NICK corrected the misunderstanding, he and Katie wrote to each other and he would often come to town to visit her. Since his restaurant was closed on Sundays, NICK came on the weekends.

The train brought NICK to town several times before he proposed to Katie on Christmas Day 1927 and she happily accepted. NICK remembers very well the exact time and date of their wedding. He said that it was a Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. on May 3, 1928 and it was one of the MOST (his emphasis) important days for him to remember. Needless to say, Katie was beaming as she looked at him and listened to his caring remembrance.

They lived in San Francisco for one year and finally decided to sell the restaurant and return to Watsonville. At that time, NICK had been not only running his own restaurant, but was also working part time in another restaurant to help make ends meet and Katie was left home alone much of the time this first year of their marriage. Due to the depression, times were very hard for everyone and so they decided that returning to Watsonville might be the best thing for them.

After returning to Watsonville in July 1929, NICK and Katie found a small house to rent and NICK promptly found a job or you might say, the job found NICK. Peter Knego and Martin Madesko owned the Royal Grill on Main Street (where the Mansion House now stands) and they

heard that NICK was looking for work. They invited him to work for them until 1931 when Martin Madesko decided to sell his share of the business. At that time, NICK had no money but Peter Knego told him that he would put up NICK'S share of the deal and NICK could pay him as they went along. The cost of Mr. Madesko's one-half share at the time was \$2,800.00 which was a lot of money for the times. NICK shared ownership of the Royal Grill for 17 years and started his long reputation for being the fine restaurateur that he is today.

He recalled the shoemaker's shop next to the restaurant which was owned by a German fellow, Mr. Stigich, who was also the shoemaker. NICK and Peter were waiting for the day that this fellow would either go broke or decide to put his shop up for sale. Well, he did put the shop up for sale and NICK and Peter bought the place and thus began the Royal Bar. It was hard going until 1940 and the start of the Second World War.

(Third Part of NICK'S STORY next month)

## YACO Member



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## Yugoslav Radio Hour

REMEMBER to listen to the YUGOSLAV RADIO HOUR every Sunday at 9:35 a.m. on radio station KOMY, 1340 on your radio dial.

ANDY & ANN SOLDI are your hosts and bring you the finest in old favorites as well as the very latest music from Yugoslavia. They will be happy to play any special requests you might ask for whether it be for birthday, anniversary or for any special announcement.

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## COOKING

This is my version of Prsurate, Prikle or whatever familiar name comes to mind. I always helped Grandma Bakich prepare her baked specialties but never learned the recipes and so with a minimum of memory and some inventiveness, I came up with these and they really are quite delicious. Also, you may want to add some whiskey to the recipe before deep frying. Odlicno!

1/2 cup water  
4 tbs. butter or margerine  
2 tsp. sugar  
dash salt  
1/2 cup sifted flour  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup raisins (soak in hot water to  
soften for 10 minutes)

1/2 cup sugar  
2 tsp cinnamon

In saucepan combine water, butter, 2 tsp. sugar and the salt. Bring to boil, stirring until butter is melted. Add flour all at once. Cook and stir over low heat until mixture forms a ball that does not separate. Remove from heat and vigorously beat in eggs-one at a time until mixture is smooth. Remove raisins from hot water and add to mixture and mix well.

### Sweet Things

JOYCE KUSANOVICH AS THE SWEET CHAIRMAN FOR OUR JULY 7th PICNIC, SAYS, "SHOW OFF YOUR YUGOSLAV COOKING TALENT. BRING A SWEET TO THE JULY 7th PICNIC."

(PRSURATE, PRIKLE OR SLAVONIAN DONUT DREAMS)

Drop by tsp onto hot oil or Crisco (375°) for about 4 minutes until golden brown. Remove with slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Combine 1/2 cup sugar and 2 tsp cinnamon in a paper bag and shake to mix. As puffs cool, lightly drop 2 or 3 at a time into bag and shake until coated. Remove and enjoy. Makes about 2-1/2 dozen.

## HOSPITAL FUND

If you would care to send a contribution to the Dubrovnik Hospital Fund, you may still do so. Send check payable to: Dubrovnik Hospital Fund, to JOHN BASOR, 728 Tuttle Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076 or ZARKO RADICH, 448 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076 or to PAJARO VALLEY BANK, Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076. The latest contribution was from Mr. Arcadio Cardenas - \$25. Thank you.

(From our local REGISTER PAJARONIAN, 6/4/85 comes this bit of memory. I hope that you are enjoying these bits of information with the familiar names because I do enjoy finding them for you.)

**That was  
Watsonville**

25 years ago (1960)  
A full-scale write-in campaign to reelect Louis Gluhan mayor was launched Friday with the mailing of 3,500 post-cards to Watsonville voters.

People Times

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# THANKS

I would like to express my deepest thanks to the following people for their hard work and dedication to YACO. Our local FAIRWAY MART in the East Lake Village Shopping Center offered YACO a deal we simply couldn't refuse. They offered to pay \$5 per hour per member to mark down many of their prices.

Well, these people did it and expanded YACO's treasury by \$250.00. OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO:

MARY BASICH  
CAROLE GOSPODNETICH  
EDITH KNOWLES (CAROLE'S MOM)  
EMME COLENDICH  
NAIDA NICHOLAS  
GERI HEEBNER  
FRANNY COLENDICH  
MIKE CASTELAN  
DONA CASTELAN  
BABE BRAUTOVICH HILL (telephone committee)  
JERRY GOSPODNETICH (for leading us to this great deal)  
FAIRWAY MART for making us the terrific offer.

PATRICIA L. SOLANO, Editor

Well our SCHOLARSHIP BAKE SALE was a huge success again this year with MUCH THANKS going to the following people:

FAIRWAY MART for the booth space  
ZARKO RADICH for the signs  
EVA BULICH for the telephone committee  
JOYCE KUSANOVICH for publicity  
ANNE SOLDO for radio publicity  
ALEX SOLANO for flowers  
NEVENKA RADICH & RON HILL for refreshments  
NAIDA NICHOLAS, LENA DERPICH, FRANNY COLENDICH, OLGA CASTELAN and FRANCES BASICH

who all helped to sell the delicious baked goodies. THANKS also to all of you who baked for us and to those of you who made generous donations to the fund. YOU ALL helped us to realize a profit of \$521.60 from this bake sale. THANKS AGAIN and we will see you all at our next bake sale.

MARY BASICH

(Editor's Note: MARY BASICH deserves a BIG THANK YOU for again managing the bake sale and helping YACO to afford two generous scholarships again this year!

## NEW DEADLINE

A new DEADLINE has been set for the 10th of each month so that we might get the paper out even earlier. It seems that many of our out of town members are not receiving their papers in time to plan on attending our programs. Our local members are receiving their papers approximately two days after mailing so the hold up seems to be with the post office. If I don't have your information by the 10th, it will have to wait for the next month's issue. REMEMBER the 10th of EACH MONTH IS DEADLINE!!!!

**SUPPORT  
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# PRIMARY SCHOOL: WHAT TO LEARN AND HOW

By Merima Ranković

( REVIEW - 209/84 )

EDITOR'S NOTE: This was a very interesting article and I thought you might enjoy reading about education elsewhere as compared to ours.

Eight-year elementary education is compulsory for all children between the ages of 7 and 14.  
PHOTO: NIN

Compulsory education is free in the sense that there are no school fees, but only poor pupils can avail themselves of free textbooks and other things necessary for school. The others are forced to purchase books from bookshops or else on the thriving secondhand book market.  
PHOTO: NIN



Asked what made him happy, a first-year pupil in a city primary school answered — seeing a wolf in the zoo. His counterpart in a mountain village said that seeing a wolf on the way to school was what frightened him most. The same problem probably arises in many countries all over the world: how to organise a homogeneous educational programme for children of the same age in cities and remote mountain villages. Although this question can never be definitely solved, there are constant attempts to improve curricula and methods of work so that compulsory primary education offers children the necessary general knowledge but adapted to the specific environments where they live.

»Primary education in Yugoslavia covers the full-time basic education of children and young people, special education for physically and mentally handicapped children, supplementary basic artistic education (for those who attend ballet or music schools in addition to full-time primary school) and basic education for adults,« says Živorad Bajić of the Republican Institute of Education in Belgrade. »Education is free, which means that parents do not pay school fees. However, such benefits as free textbooks and exercise books, school meals, transport to and from school (if the school is more than 4 kilometres from pupils' homes) are only extended to those children whose parents have low incomes. The characteristic features of Yugoslavia's primary schools

are: that they use modern work methods and materials; that teaching includes technical as well as traditional school subjects; that the pupils engage in non-classroom activities according to their needs and interests; and that the schools are linked in various ways with the society around them.«

Full-time primary education lasts 8 years and is general in type. It is compulsory for all children between the ages of 7 and 15 (in the Republic of Croatia, from 6 to 14). A child may start school under 7 years of age if his parents wish and if he is considered physically and mentally mature enough by a panel of experts consisting of a doctor, psychologist and teacher.

As it is a rule that primary education be carried out in the pupil's mother tongue, teaching is conducted not only in the South Slav languages — Serbo-Croat, Slovenian and Macedonian — but also in the languages of the national minorities. Thus 360,000 children and young people have their lessons in Albanian, 3,000 in Bulgarian, 6,000 in Czech, 1,000 in Italian, 30,000 in Hungarian, 2,500 in Romanian, 850 in Ruthenian, 5,500 in Slovak and 7,000 in Turkish. Usually these pupils take one of the official languages of Yugoslavia as an optional subject in order to fit more easily later into the environment in which they live, work or study. And vice versa. Children living in areas where there are members of other nationalities learn the language of that particular area.

Curricula in primary schools are similar in all republics and autonomous provinces, so, pedagogically speaking, this type of education is uniform for the whole country.

Three main areas are covered by full-time teaching: general subjects (the mother tongue, one or two foreign languages, mathematics, social study and nature study), history and geography, and science subjects (biology, physics and chemistry). It is felt that other compulsory subjects such as physical training, art, music and handwork also fulfil an educational function.

In the lower school (classes 1 to 4), pupils have 6 or 7 subjects, while the final class (8) of the upper school ends



up with 13 to 14 subjects. The number of subjects, like the number of lessons — 38 a week — is considerable compared to some other countries, especially in Western Europe. Given the fact that a large number of children are also engaged in extra-curricular activities, either of their own choice or that of their parents (learning foreign languages, attending music and ballet schools, taking part in some sports, etc.) the general view is that primary schoolchildren in Yugoslavia are pretty overburdened.

The non-classroom activities organised in schools are often linked with some classroom subject: the mother tongue (literary, press, elocution societies), biology (young naturalists', young researchers' clubs etc.), handwork and other technical subjects (photographic, car, model aircraft clubs). In addition, pupils may be active in various national organisations like the Nature Conservation Club, the Schools Vacation Association, the Scouts Federation and the Red Cross. Naturally, participation in these activities is voluntary.

To cater for specially gifted pupils,

schools provide supplementary teaching adapted to their intellectual level, while weaker pupils have the benefit of extra lessons to help them master the curriculum. Pupils who fail to get a pass-mark in all subjects at the end of the school year may attend coaching lessons during the summer vacation. Pupils in the first three classes whose parents are both employed can stay on in school after lessons end. Trained teacher-supervisors go through their homework with them and organise games and other activities while their parents are at work.

Special education is designed for children who are physically and/or mentally handicapped. Lessons are conducted in special classes in ordinary schools, or in special schools or welfare institutions. These latter follow specific curricula and are staffed by specially trained teachers. Such schools exist for the blind and partially blind, the deaf and partially deaf, the physically handicapped, neglected and sick children.

Despite efforts to include as many of these children as possible in the educational process, only 4 to 13 per cent at-

tend special schools, the figure varying from one part of the country to another.

Basic artistic training is not compulsory. This form of education is provided by music and ballet schools in which children enroll of their own choice provided they have a particular talent. However, they are also bound to attend full-time primary school. This training lasts 5 to 6 years and may be continued in secondary music schools.

Adults who, for one reason or another, did not complete their basic education when young may make up for this in later years. Primary education for adults lasts 4 years, but full-time attendance at classes is not required. It is enough to pass the necessary examinations.

After 8 years of primary school, pupils may then enroll in secondary school for a duration of 3 to 4 years, but this schooling is not compulsory. It is enough for someone to complete the 8-year primary school to be able to get a job as an unskilled worker. However, more than 90 per cent of all pupils continue their education.

For the first four classes in primary school the children have one class teacher for all general subjects, and in the last four grades a separate teacher for every subject. Primary school teachers are usually graduates of a teachers' training college, though more and more of them now possess a university degree.

Despite the broad network of primary schools, there is still a relatively large number of illiterates, though these are mostly among older age groups. According to the 1981 census, 9.5 per cent of the total population was illiterate. This is certainly an improvement on 20 years ago, when it was 21 per cent, but all the same the figure is still far too high. The reasons for continuing illiteracy are many: schools are a long way from small villages in highland regions; parents often need the children to work on the farm, etc. Whatever the reason, 3 per cent of children of school age do not attend school. There is no doubt that as primary education and the general standard of living improve, this problem will gradually disappear.



# DOWN ON THE SALAŠ

By Vesna Djukić

(From REVIEW 209/84)  
(in part)

## Thanks ANN

The June 2nd meeting was especially entertaining and made interesting because of ANN BACKOVICH'S slides of her trip to China three years ago. ANN apologized for not being a very good photographer, but after seeing her beautiful slides, she is to be complemented for the lovely shots she captured on film.

Along with the scenic shots, her narrative was most enlightening. It was quite evident that she enjoyed her trip and we were able to enjoy it also through her sharing. THANKS ANN!!!!

The Editor

Picture a house made of compressed earth, white-washed and roofed with dried maize stalks, with a chimney and a vine-covered porch. Under the colonnaded porch stands a carved wooden bench and a wooden table. There is a pitcher on the table brimming with blood-red wine, a product of the fertile Pannonian vineyards. Sitting at the table is an old man with ruddy cheeks and lively eyes, corpulent and jovial. His expression reflects the peace and tranquility of the plain. If anyone says that the Pannonian plain is monotonous and depressing, he is clearly unaware that monotony can also be a sign of constancy, not just apathy. In the heart of this old man the plain is indeed constant, and generous too. He has learned from the plain and shared with it good times and bad, for, as much as he took from it, he has also returned. In the midst of this sea of rich black earth, he and his home, surrounded by acacias, keep life going.

What we have described is a "Salaš" (from the Hungarian szall) which means flying and somewhere alighting - a kind of farm only to be found nowhere in Yugoslavia except in Vojvodina.

Everything on the farm is reduced to essentials - neither too much nor too little of anything. The old man's forefather, a sane and sensible Pannonian peasant, built a shelter for himself and his cattle on the salaš. All the buildings on the salaš, mostly made of earth and until recently covered with maize stalks and arranged like three sides of a square, have been accommodated to those basic human needs - production and consumption.

These farms, isolated from towns and everything else, weathered by time, can still be seen today, two centuries after they were established.

# JOIN US TODAY

We earnestly invite you to join the YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION established in 1979.

We are a non-profit, non-political, and non-religiously oriented organization, and our main purpose for coming together was to simply bring the various members of the Slavic community at large together for their mutual cultural enjoyment.

We are very proud to have among our members, Yugoslav-Americans whose families came from the many different regions and republics of today's Yugoslavia. We also have many members who are non-slavic but enjoy, appreciate and support the slavic culture and its vast richness.

Our goals are as we mentioned before, ONLY to promote a cultural awareness and appreciation of our heritage as well as to bring Slavs and non-slavs together in a social and cultural atmosphere. Our programs include folk dances from all regions of Yugoslavia as well as slides and movie presentations, history lectures, folk singing (we have a singing group called "HARMONIJA" who perform not only for YACO functions, but celebrate marvelous performances for many other groups both locally and out of the city), language instruction, and other various cultural activities.

Won't you consider joining us for a good time as well as a very informative experience? All memberships include the receipt of this paper, THE KALIFORNSKI each month to keep you informed of YACO's activities and other informative news.

The nicest people belong to YACO and you'll be among them once you join.

Our dues are as follows:

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# ATTENTION:


THE KALIFORNSKI is your publication. If there is anything in particular that you would like to see in any future issues, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you have any subjects relating to Yugoslav heritage or about Yugoslavs, here or abroad, that you would like to see published in our newsletter, please let me know. I would appreciate your cooperation in publishing this newsletter each month. Any questions or suggestions, contact me:

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## SUGGESTED TOPICS:

1. Trips by YACO members.
2. Visitors from the Old Country.
3. Newspaper or magazine articles about Yugoslavia or Yugoslavs, local or abroad.
4. Weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birth announcements, or special celebrations by YACO members.
5. Civic or cultural contributions by Yugoslavs.
6. Yugoslav recipes.
7. Yugoslav songs, poetry or stories.
8. Special family traditions for holidays, etc.
9. Yugoslav stories for children.
10. Anything you think might be of interest to YACO members.

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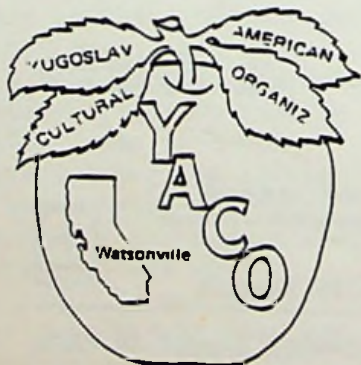
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